

To: Ferrell, Mark[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
From: Mark Ferrell
Sent: Thur 1/30/2014 6:22:17 PM
Subject: salients

The Water Quality Standards Rule (SB136) proposed by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection was passed out of Senate Natural Resources Committee with almost no discussion. The bill requires calculation of aluminum criteria based on "hardness" of the stream, significantly weakening existing regulations. The bill currently sits in Senate Judiciary, where it is believed to be stalled due to current water crisis (MCHM).

The Senate's first legislative response to the chemical spill, SB373, was fast-tracked through the Senate and delivered to House Health and Human Resources Committee on Wednesday, January 29. The bill provides for regulation of "tank farms" and must pass through Judiciary and then Finance before making it to the House floor.

The National Science Foundation said today it had awarded the grants to researchers from West Virginia University, the University of South Alabama and Virginia Tech. These "rapid response" grants from the National Science Foundation are to study the impacts of the Jan. 9 chemical spill that contaminated drinking water supplies for 300,000 West Virginians.

A Marshall University water scientist and member the state Environmental Quality Board, told members of the Senate Judiciary on Wednesday, January 29, that his own limited testing of local water reveals a significant and potentially dangerous levels of formaldehyde in drinking water at one local restaurant in Charleston. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection were quick to denounce Dr. Scott Simonton's legislative testimony as "misleading and irresponsible."